



PHASE I: Letter of Intent

Last updated: 06/23/2015

Basic Contact and Application Information

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Applicant groups and Existing Education Corporations interested in submitting an application to establish Regents-authorized charter schools are asked to complete this brief information sheet. The Department will use this information to plan and coordinate peer review panels with appropriate expertise to evaluate all application materials.

Please indicate whether an Applicant Group or an Existing Education Corporation is submitting this Round 1 Letter of Intent.

Applicant Group LOI to establish a single, brand new charter school

Proposed Charter School Name

(Please write out the formal and full name for the school you proposed, and include the words "charter" and "school" in the proposed name(s)).

School Name	The Whole Elephant Chinese Charter School
Grades Served (K-5, .6-8, 9-12, etc.) During Initial Term	k-12
Number of Students During Initial Term	260

Proposed or Current Board Chair and Public Contact information, including mailing address, phone number, and email address.

(The entire chart may not be visible on your screen. Use the "tab" key to move from column to column. The first column will remain static as you do so).

	First and Last Name	Best Phone Number (###-###-####)	Email Address
Proposed/Current Board Chair	Lotus King Weiss	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Public/Media Contact Person	Lotus King Weiss	631-552-0233	lotuschineseschool@gmail.com

If available, please provide the URL to the website established for the proposed school or existing education corporation.

www.confuciuscharters.org; www.thewholeelephant.info

Proposed Management and/or Partner Organization(s), such as a charter or educational management company or a university, academic program partner, or whole school change partner.

(See pages 45-46 of the application kit for definitions and guidance as only "substantial" partnerships should be listed here).

Proposed Management Company	The Whole Elephant Institute
Partner Organization 1	The New Tang Dynasty Television
Partner Organization 2	The Global Center for Quitting CCP

Proposed Board Chair Signature

(Internet Explorer may not support this feature. Open the portal using Google Chrome, Firefox, or Safari).

Lotus King Weiss 李天水

Date

2015/06/23

Thank you for completing this form.

NAME OF APPLICANT GROUP MEMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS	CURRENT EMPLOYMENT
Dr. Lotus King Weiss	[REDACTED]	President of the Whole Elephant Institute; CEO of the Korean Community Center of New York; Scientific Consultant of Gateway Biotechnology Inc.
Mr. Bin Dong	[REDACTED]	Director of WEI
Ms. Liqiang Qi	[REDACTED]	Home Care
Mr. Dunzhen Yan	[REDACTED]	Director of WEI
Dr. Jianxin Bao	[REDACTED]	Professor; Researcher
Dr. Hongyan Zuo	[REDACTED]	Researcher; Scholar

TABLE 1: APPLICANT GROUP INFORMATION

***Minimum of 5 members must be designated as Trustees**

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE, SKILLS, AND ROLE ON APPLICANT GROUP (Key Words)	PROPOSED ROLE (if any) (Trustee, Employee, Consultant, or No Continuing Role)	PROPOSED POSITION ON THE BOARD (e.g., officer, trustee, or constituent representative)	LENGTH OF INITIAL TERM	VOTING MEMBER (YES OR NO)
Non-profit management; one-on-one English Language Education; Chinese Language and Culture Education; Community Services; Academic Research; Administration; Public Speech; Grant Application; Team Building; Conflict Management; Mentorship; Cultivation Practice	Trustee	Officer	one year	Yes
Education; Author	Trustee	Trustee	One Year	yes
Engineer; Manager	Trustee	Trustee	one year	yes
Education; Legal Expert	Trustee	Trustee	one year	yes
Scientist; Researcher	Trustee	Trustee	one Year	Yes
Research; education	Trustee	Trustee	one year	yes

The Whole Elephant Chinese Charter School

Letter of Intent

I. Applicant Information

a. Lead Applicant Dr. Lotus King Weiss

Phone: [REDACTED] Email: celestialwater@gmail.com; Mailing Address: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Dr. Lotus King Weiss is a parent, a teacher and a local resident of the proposed school district.

b. Public Contact:

Dr. Lotus King Weiss; Phone: 631-552-0233; Email: wholeelephantcharters@gmail.com

c. Applicant Founding Group Information:

The Leading Applicant: Dr. Lotus King Weiss

Dr. Lotus King Weiss obtained her Ph.D. degree in Molecular Biology, Cell Biology and Developmental Biology from the University of Florida in 1992, carried out her postdoctoral fellowship in Harvard Medical School (HMS)/Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) between 1993 to 1995, became an Instructor at Harvard in 1995 and an Assistant Professor at the Department of Genetics of Harvard Medical School/Department of surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital in 1997. Her research focus was in the area of the molecular mechanisms underlying the regulation of all forms of cellular behaviors controlled by a class of key regulators of life, from birth, to aging, sickness and death. As a key leader in her field, she made major discoveries which were published in the cutting edge science journals, such as Science, Cell, EMBO J., is the inventor for three large patents at Massachusetts General Hospital, delivered lectures internationally, and was the first recipient for the Claflin Distinguished Scholar as a Young Scientist Mom at MGH/HMS. In 1999, Dr. Weiss relocated her entire research team to a leading Immunology Center in Seattle Washington to explore a key mechanism that links Cancer to Protein Metabolism therefore the realm of human mind, which links directly to human stress responses known to be the cause of all fetal human diseases. Due to her participation of a research project on the immune cells of the persecuted Falun Gong practitioners (www.falundafa.org), her laboratory was forcibly shut down under political pressure (www.thewholeelephant.info). Since 2005, Dr. Weiss has been residing in New York, and has been spending the past near ten years carrying out non-profit community services in all five boroughs of New York City, as well as in Long Island. She is the Founder of the non-profit organization, the Whole Elephant Institute (www.thewholeelephant.info) since 2005 and has been serving as the CEO of the Korean Community Center of New York since 2009, here in Flushing. She initiated the concept of Chinese Charter School in 2012 and has since been working full time on this project in all three largest Chinatowns in New York, with a main focus in Flushing, Queens. Currently, Dr. Weiss has about 24 students who have been under her private instructions and has also been building a strong Mom team to work with her in the upcoming Chinese Charter School projects. Her primary residence is in Flushing, Queens.

Mr. Dunzheng Yan is a local resident of Flushing and has been working with Dr. Lotus King Weiss since 2012 on the Chinese Charter School project. He is a community leader and a public educator in the area of human rights, Christianity and has been an advocate for anti-discrimination and anti-defamation. As an immigrant from the Fujian Province in China, Mr. Yan is a critical supporter for the founding team in the area of community outreach to about 57 Christian Churches as well as to the largest Chinese Immigrant population in Flushing.

Ms. Thelina Qi is a local resident of Flushing and now works as a key representative of the Chinese Immigrant Moms here in Flushing to coordinate all aspects of community outreach and media contacts of the Chinese Charter School Project. Ms. Qi was an Engineer from China and has been working in the health care and business area in New York. Her expertise includes science, religion, education and business.

Dr. Jianxin Bao is a neuroscientist and molecular biologist specialized in hearing loss research. He is recently recruited by Dr. Lotus King Weiss to be part of the funding team of the Chinese Charter School initiatives by the Whole Elephant Institute and will be responsible for providing important science education support to this team, as well as in bringing talented scientists to Flushing to serve the people. He will be also overseeing the expenditure of public funding and assist the team to carry out effective fund-raising.

Dr. Hongyan Zuo is a visiting scientist from China specialized in biomedical research. She is recently recruited by Dr. Lotus King Weiss to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees to support the Flushing team in the establishment of the Whole Elephant Charter School. She will primarily serve as the key personnel in bringing Science teachers from China and help to build educational science laboratory for the Whole Elephant Charter School.

Mr. Bin Dong is a scholar currently residing in Shanxi Province, Mainland China. He joined the funding team in the Spring of 2015, and has been actively involved in assisting Dr. Lotus King Weiss to build a team of scholars who will be responsible for providing teaching materials for the Whole Elephant Chinese Charter School in the area of Chinese Language, Chinese Culture, Arts, History and Science.

d. Initial Board of Trustees Information:

All founding members listed above shall serve as the initial Board of Trustees.

e. Replication or Network Information: N/A

f. Application History:

The mission of the Whole Elephant Chinese Charter School was first established in the Summer of 2012, during the Round Two submission, under the name “The Whole Elephant Charter School”. However, the design of the school was only limited to the Elementary School with a different proposed number of student enrollment. The full application was accepted in early August 2012 by the Charter School Office of DOE, but was immediately taken out from the list for further review after local media coverage of the lead applicant, Dr. Lotus King Weiss, who was soon labeled by the Chinese Media to be associated with “Falun Gong”, a name targeted for hate propaganda by the Chinese Communist Government since July 20, 1999. Chinese Government controlled media in China openly defamed Dr. Lotus King Weiss and the proposed Whole Elephant Charter School. Soon the full application was taken out from the list for future review. The indicated reason was the lack of sufficient signatures of the Member of Board of Trustees. By then, six out from seven members of the Board of Trustees decided to withdraw from the work, due to concerns of becoming the subject of hate propaganda. All further attempts to resubmit this application have been rejected since then, during the fall of 2012 (Round 3), the fall of 2013 (Round 2). In the fourth time of our attempt to submit our intent to CSO of DOE to establish the Whole Elephant Charter School, the name was changed into the Whole Elephant Chinese Charter School and included enrollment of K-12. In the spring of 2014, we also submitted a letter of intent to the SUNY authorizers, who rejected the letter with the reason that we lacked evidence for sufficient community outreach efforts. This is the fifth time of submission. We have since been actively putting our

design of this unique education model into practice in Flushing and have gained Trust-Love-Respect from children and parents.

II. Proposed Charter School Information

a. Proposed School Name: The Whole Elephant Chinese Charter School (WECCS)

b. Proposed Location: Community School District 25, Queens, New York; we will request to be sited within the school district facilities.

c. Planned Grades and Enrollment in 1st to 5th Year of Operation

Grades	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year5
K	20	30	40	50	60
1	20	30	40	50	60
2	20	30	40	50	60
3	20	30	40	50	60
4	20	30	40	50	60
5	20	30	40	50	60
6	20	30	40	50	60
7	20	30	40	50	60
8	20	30	40	50	60
9	20	30	40	50	60
10	20	30	40	50	60
11	20	30	40	50	60
12	20	30	40	50	60
Total	260	390	520	650	780

d. Proposed Management or Partner Organization:

The Whole Elephant Institute, the Korean Community Center of New York, the New Tang Dynasty Television Station (www.ntdtv.com), the Kanzhongguo Newspaper (www.secretchina.com), the Epoch Times (www.epochtimes.com), and the Institute for School Excellence will be the partner organizations.

e. Proposed School Mission:

The Whole Elephant Chinese Charter School carries out the mission to establish an innovative education system which integrates the most frontier science of the West with the ancient science of mind-body-spirit from the East, with a goal to bring out the Master within each child whose unique passion and talent will be cultivated to blossom and whose mind will be cultivated to reach true maturity with great wisdom of human life and the universe.

f. School Overview

The Whole Elephant Chinese Charter School (WECCS) plans to open in September 2015 with a total enrollment of 260 from K-12 and increase to a total number of 780 by 2019, following all necessary rules and regulations of the public charter schools. The key spirit of our school is rooted within the Myth of “the Blind men and the Elephant”. Flushing is known to be home of Freedom of Religion and now hosts religious establishments of all kinds from all over the world. The predominant population of local residents used to be primarily the Jewish people and now yield to the Chinese immigrants. However, Flushing is the home for people from all over the world with many different nationalities and ethnicities. Children in this community are

naturally presented with the phenomena of the “Blind Men and the Elephant”, due to language and cultural barriers. Even within the same ethnic group, within the same family, and within the same spiritual group, conflicts are frequent due to the Blind Men Syndrome. In the past over two years, the founding team of the Whole Elephant Chinese Charter School has been presented vividly with such a Syndrome which has been blocking the final approval of this application. However, after integrating the community feedbacks from all different directions, our founding group is now mature enough to bring talents of all areas to establish such an innovative education platform for delivering wisdom and harmony to the community and to train future great scientists. On this platform, we will deliver all subjects of education required by the core curriculum of New York State for public schools through a novel education method different from the current public school classroom formats. Instead, the Master-Disciple format from the ancient Chinese Martial Art School will be applied to deliver the knowledge at all grades, from K to 12. Based upon extensive research in this community, it is clear to us that the immigrant children can learn English much better and quicker when they are taught by the teachers who are fluent in speaking their own native languages. It is also clear to us that most immigrant children are forced to give up their own culture, spiritual practice and language for “fitting” into the current public education system. Such “de-rooting” education method is the cause for the risk of academic failure and major psychological stress of many talented young minds. Thus the entire design of the Whole Elephant Chinese Charter School is based upon the education art of respecting the native culture and language of the immigrant students in this community. Considering the current large amount of new Chinese immigrant children who are fluent with Chinese but are facing academic failure due to their lack of English language skills and the fact that the local public schools are not providing adequate amount of bilingual teachers for these students, we have designed the Chinese Charter School education model to bridge such a gap. In addition, our education will also attempt to bridge the gaps between different subjects in modern science, the gaps between ancient science and modern science, the gaps between different ethnic groups with different spiritual practices, and the gaps between science, religion and art.

g. Target population and Community Served: there has been a huge increase in the amount of Chinese immigrant children in the Community School District 25 in Flushing, Queens. This is our main target population to deliver our unique education program. These children are facing academic failure due to lack of sufficient English language skills resulted from being sent back to China during their early childhood. Most of the parents of these children are unable to speak, write or understand oral communication in English. They usually work within the circle of Chinese immigrants with extended work hours and are usually not available for assisting the children to learn English. The current existing local public schools are lacking sufficient bilingual teachers for these children. As a consequence of such a situation, many talented young children, simply due to the lack of English Language skills, are facing risk of academic failure and even developing emotional and psychological defects. Our unique education program will be able to effectively help these children to allow them to rapidly gain English language skills while taking the

advantage of their already mastered Chinese language skills to master subjects of knowledge included in the core curricula of public schools.

III. Enrollment and retention of students

Enrollment: we have been building a broad network of community Moms who have demonstrated strong interest in our education model and philosophy. About 400 Moms will be recruited onto our Flushing Mom's Club, which will be delivered all updated information about our school as well as professional English language training. This club serves as an important platform for enrollment of students with disabilities, English learners and students eligible for free and reduced price lunch program. Besides this platform, we will host monthly community outreach conference, deliver newsletters, brochures, educational workshops, media advertisement, public-marketing campaign to inform the local community the unique bilingual education model and start to provide open house education demo in the community.

Retention: we are confident that our unique education methods and the high quality of education team we have been building will win the Trust-Love-Respect from the parents and children who are enrolled into our school. We will pay special attention to provide high quality professional training to our education team, to provide effective communication platform for the parents to work with the teachers in the education process, and also build a strong team of administration and management for effectively operate the school. When we truly are able to meet the goal set forth in the Mission of our school, we will be able to effectively retain our enrolled students.

IV. Public Outreach and Community Support

a. Public Outreach: The Whole Elephant Chinese Charter School has been broadly introduced to the local community of Flushing, as well as to the other two China towns in New York through delivering fliers, emails, community meetings, website posting. About 57 churches in three China towns as well as in Staten Island are informed with the news and methods of community feedbacks are provided. We also have set up booths in the local playground. The most important method of our community outreach is "word of mouth" through our Mom's Club. We also have been carrying out home visiting to directly deliver our education model to individual student one home a time. Through these practice, we have been able to gain insights and obtain feedbacks regarding the critical details in improving our education methods. We have been patiently serving the local families in order to better understand their needs and have been incorporating these feedbacks into the new application.

b. Community support: Every person we introduced our fliers and talked about our school has shown support and expressed their genuine wish for our school to be approved as soon as possible. In the past two years, we have approached hundreds of parents who expressed their interest in sending their children to our Chinese Charter School. A list of these parents and the proof of such support will be submitted in the full application.

V. Lead Applicant Signature and Date Signed

Dr. Lotus King Weiss Signature _____

Date: June 23, 2015